

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 15, 2003, in the above identified pending application, the examiner set forth a requirement for restriction under 35 USC 121. Specifically, the examiner has noted applicants' pending apparatus claims 1-22 (Group I) directed to a food processing system, and method claims 23-25 (Group II) directed to a food processing method, and has asserted that these groups of claims recite inventions which are technically distinct.

In response, applicant hereby elects the apparatus claims 1-22 (Group I) for further examination on the merits in this application. This election is without traverse, and without prejudice to pursuing the subject matter of the method claims 23-25 (Group II) in a timely filed divisional application.

In accordance with the revised PTO amendment practice, effective July 30, 2003, these Remarks are preceded by a listing of all pending claims 1-25 in this application, wherein the elected claims 1-22 are designated "(original)" and wherein the nonelected claims 23-25 are retained in the listing but designated "(withdrawn)".

Respectfully submitted,

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